



THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Sanitary Condition

OF THE

COUNTY BOROUGH OF HANLEY,

INCLUDING THE

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1893,

Submitted to the Sanitary Committee,

BY

JOHN CLARE, L.R.C.S., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health for the County Borough of Hanley.



Hanley:

ALLBUT AND DANIEL, PERCY STREET PRINTING WORKS.



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ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for the County Borough of Hanley.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present you with my Annual Report on the Sanitary condition of the County Borough of Hanley, for the year ending December 31st, 1893.

AREA.—The County Borough of Hanley, for the purposes of registration, is divided into two districts : Hanley, 590 acres ; Shelton, 1,178 acres ; being a total of 1,768 acres.

POPULATION.—The enumerated population of Hanley in 1881, was—Hanley, 22,418, Shelton, 25,943, total 48,361. By the census of 1891 the population was—Hanley, 25,618, Shelton, 29,328, total 54,946. Assuming that the rate of increase which prevailed between the two last census enumerations is still maintained, I find, by the method pursued by the Registrar-General, that the estimated population for the middle of 1893, will be :—

Hanley	26,399
Shelton	30,148
Total for the Borough ..	56,547

This estimate is made on the supposition that the increase of population would be in the same proportion as in the last decade, but if we take the actual excess of births over deaths, since the last census, viz. :—1,090 in Shelton, and 1,032 in Hanley, the population would be 57,068.

The Birth and Death rates are calculated on the estimated population, 56,547.

The number of inhabited houses in the Borough are—

Shelton	5,996
Hanley	5,350

Empty houses, 177.

BIRTHS.—The Births registered in Hanley were 1,025; Shelton, 1,103; total, 2,128; being an increase of 137 on the number registered in 1892.

The Birth rate is 37·6 per 1000 of the estimated population.

The Birth rate of the 33 largest towns was 31·9 per 1000.

The Birth rate in 1892 was 35·7.

Of the 2,128 Births, 1077 were Males, 1051 Females.

The Births out of Wedlock were 99, being equal to 4·7 per cent. of the total births.

The percentage of Illegitimate Births in the preceding year was 5·2.

The sex proportion of children born was 102 Males, to 97 Females.

In the preceding year there were born 112 Males to 88·9 Females.

DEATHS.—I have appended to this Report a Table of Deaths, occurring in Hanley and Shelton during the year 1892, classified according to diseases and ages.

The records show that 532 deaths were registered in Hanley, and 624 in Shelton making a total of 1,156. In 1892, 1,177, in 1891, 1,244.

The Death rate is at the rate of 20·2 per 1,000. In 1892 it was 21·1, and for 1891, 22·3.

The Death rate for the thirty-three largest English towns was 21·6 per 1,000, ranging from 16·3 in Croydon, to 27·3 in Liverpool.

The Deaths from the principal Zymotic Diseases were 234, as against 172 in 1892, and 182 in 1891.

The Zymotic Death rate was 4·1 per 1,000, in 1892 it was 3·0, and in 1891, 3·3.

The Zymotic Death rate for the three largest towns was 3·2 per 1,000.

It will be seen that whilst the General Death rate is lower than it has been in the two previous years, and also lower than the average of the thirty-three largest towns, the Zymotic Death rate is larger than for the past two years in Hanley, and also larger in 1893 than in the thirty-three largest towns. I shall notice this more fully in this Report when dealing with the prevalence of Typhoid Fever in the Borough.

The Deaths of Children under one year of age to 1,000 Births are 195.

195·1 in Hanley and 194·9 in Shelton.

In the 33 largest towns there were 181 deaths under one year of age to 1,000 births, against an average rate of 163 in the preceding ten years.

In 1892 the deaths in Hanley of children under one year to 1,000 births were 201, in 1891, 189.

Public attention has been very much called to the excessive Infant mortality in our large towns, and it is to be hoped that such a lamentable state of things may be remedied.

CAUSES OF DEATH.—Of the Deaths from Zymotic Diseases, there were

Measles	69
Scarlet Fever	9
Diphtheria	5
Membranous Croup	17
Whooping Cough	3
Typhoid Fever	26
Continued Fever	2
Diarrhoea and Dysentery	92
Cholera	4
Puerperal Fever	6
Erysipelas	1

The Deaths from Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Plēurisy were 241 ; in 1892, 301 ; in 1891, 285.

Deaths from Phthisis were 74, rate per 1,000, 1·3
" " " in 1892, 60, " 1,000, 1·07
" " " in 1891, 70, " 1,000, 1·2

In the Hanley district there were 16 Inquests and 31 Uncertified Deaths.

In Shelton 32 Inquests and 27 Uncertified Deaths.

Total for the Borough, 48 Inquests, 61 Uncertified Deaths.

INFLUENZA.—Influenza again appeared amongst us in December and contributed largely to the increased number of Deaths from Diseases of the Respiratory Organs.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—During the year I have received the following notifications of Infectious Diseases :—

Small Pox	7
Scarlet Fever	215
Diphtheria	31
Membranous Croup	14
Typhoid	159
Continued Fever	31
Puerperal Fever	10
Erysipelas	62
Measles	956
	—
	1485

	In 1891	1892	1893
Small Pox .. .. ..		..	7
Scarlet Fever	205	85	215
Diphtheria	22	23	31
Membranous Croup ..	3	2	14
Typhoid Fever ..	110	69	159
Continued Fever ..	17	12	31
Puerperal Fever ..	5	3	10
Erysipelas	37	49	62
Measles	1027	124	956
	—	—	—
	1426	367	1485

From the above figures it will be seen that there was a very large number of cases of Infectious Disease in 1893.

SMALL POX.—In February there was one case of Small Pox notified, in May, 2 ; in June, 3 ; in July, 1.

In each case, the patient was removed to the Hospital at Bucknall, and their clothes either disinfected or destroyed, most of the persons who had been brought into contact with them were revaccinated, and these precautions were fortunately successful in preventing the spread of the complaint.

If there had been no Contagious Hospital provided, to which persons affected could be at once removed, we should probably have had a serious spread of the disease and means of isolation would have had to be found. Everyone knows that accommodation for isolation acquired during the panic, caused by the actual existence of Small Pox in our midst, is excessively expensive, so that not only have lives been saved and people preserved from the disfigurement of a loathsome disease, but also as a mere matter of £ s. d., the expense incurred in preparing beforehand for an outbreak of Contagious Disease, has been proved to be the truest economy.

TYPHOID FEVER.—I regret, extremely, that I have to report that during the year 1893 there were 159 notifications of Typhoid Fever in Hanley, and 26 deaths.

The cases and deaths occurred in the following order :—

		Cases	Deaths
January	.. ..	7	1
February	.. ..	6	1
March	.. ..	5	1
April	.. ..	5	0
May	.. .. ..	10	2
June	.. .. ..	7	0
July	.. .. ..	13	2
August	.. ..	9	2
September	.. ..	37	10
October	.. ..	33	2
November	.. ..	16	4
December	.. ..	11	1
		—	—
		159	26
At Infirmary and Workhouse		9	—
		—	35

Death rate to number of cases, 22 per cent.

Thirty-seven cases were removed to the N.S. Infirmary and the Workhouse. The cases were spread all over the Borough, but there was a slight preponderance in a group of streets called Joiner's Square. In 45 of the cases, more than one person was affected in the same house. There were eight Deaths amongst the patients removed to the N.S. Infirmary, and one amongst those removed to the Workhouse.

There was no distinction between houses supplied with Water Closets, Cess-pool Privies or Rochdale Pans. As many cases in proportion broke out in comparatively new streets as in the older parts of the Borough.

The Water supply is from the same source all over the Town, viz., the Potteries Water Works Company.

What applied most in common to all the cases were complaints of offensive smells from the man-holes in the immediate vicinity, and that the epidemic was most prevalent and fatal during the months of September and October, after a long continued spell of dry and hot weather.

Unlike many other parts of England, the town of Hanley was fortunate in having no scarcity of water; except to the highest part of the town, the supply was abundant and continuous.

We had the water analysed in November, 1892, by Dr. Frankland, his analysis was published at the time, and a copy of it was incorporated in my annual report for 1892; it was to the effect that it was turbid, but after filtration, of excellent quality, also, that organically it was amongst the purest waters he had ever examined. From this report, also taking into consideration the sources from which the water is derived, it would not probably be to the water that the epidemic could be traced.

Our sewers depend almost entirely on the rain supply for water to flush them. There is no continuous supply of water from the mains to flush the sewers and no automatic flushers in the sewers

themselves, but, during a dry season the only means to compensate for the missing rain, is, that the water carts discharge their contents into the sewers as often as practicable.

This is a miserably inadequate substitute. A large proportion of the water closets in Hanley are water closets without a proper water supply, they are Cottage Basins which the inhabitants are supposed to properly clean and flush by pouring water down, and Fowler's Closets in which the slop water of the household is utilized to wash away the fecal contents ; unfortunately neither of these systems have been found satisfactory, and during the dry season they were most offensive.

From a sanitary point of view the best means of dealing with the matter would be the universal use of clean water closets, that is, water closets with a proper cistern, but the objection to this measure is that it would necessitate the annual payment of 6/- to the Water Company, per closet, for houses rented over £6 a year.

The milk supply was from various places, and though great trouble was taken to trace any possible infection from that source it was with negative results.

I am of opinion that the prolonged hot and dry weather brought into activity typhoid poison that had been latent in the soil.

Our present system of allowing clay joints to our drains gives every facility for the escape of sewage into the soil through the leakages that sooner or later take place through these imperfect joints.

The direct communication between our rain water pipes and the drains also facilitates the diffusion of sewer gas into the houses, and if the germs of Typhoid Fever are present in the sewers the natural result will be the spread of the infection.

The measures taken by the Sanitary Authority have been :— Inspection of the premises ; all existing sanitary defects being remedied as soon as practicable, with the exception of the clay joints to the drains, and the direct communication of the rain water pipes to the sewers—these are part of a large system and should be dealt

with as a whole ; disinfection of the excreta with Carbolate of Lime, before being emptied into the drains or cesspools; removal and disinfection of the clothes by heat, and disinfection of the infected rooms with sulphur vapour; also in each case the inmates were supplied with the solution of Perchloride of Mercury, recommended in the memorandum of the Local Government Board, and directions for its use were given by the Sanitary Inspectors.

MEASLES.—We had an epidemic of Measles in the first month of 1893.

This disease is not at present compulsorily notified in Hanley, but there is an arrangement whereby the medical practitioners are paid for each case notification, and I believe almost all the cases attended by qualified men are duly notified :—

		Over 5	Under 5	Total
January	.. ..	9	8	17
February	.. ..	30	44	74
March	.. ..	102	157	259
April	.. ..	72	172	244
May	.. ..	47	160	207
June	.. ..	11	96	107
July	.. ..	1	21	22
		—	—	—
		272	658	930

The Epidemic was of a mild type, and in a large number of cases no medical man would be called in, so that 930 by no means represents the actual number of the cases of Measles.

Deaths :—

		Over 5	Under 5
January	.. .. ..	0	0
February	.. .. ..	1	1
March	.. .. ..	0	9
April	.. .. ..	1	17
May	.. .. ..	0	13
June	.. .. ..	0	14
July	.. .. ..	0	5
		—	—
		2	59

Death rate per 100 notified cases :—

Over 5, .73. Under 5, 8.9.

The non-abatement of the Epidemic and the increasing number of deaths of infants under five, in spite of the exclusion of the children of infected households from the Elementary Schools, made it advisable to try the effect of closing the Infant Department of the Schools most affected. On May 26th, the Sanitary Authority ordered the closing of the Infant Departments of seven Elementary Schools for three weeks, from May 26th, and afterwards extended the closing for a further period of two weeks, from the 19th of June.

Whether it was in consequence of this, or that the disease had exhausted itself, there was an abatement, and in July there were 22 cases notified, and only 26 during the remainder of the year.

The premonitory symptoms of Measles do not differ from those of an ordinary cold, and it is very contagious in its early stage. Hence the bringing together of a large number of children in a limited space, which compulsory attendance at School necessarily does, has the effect of giving a complaint like Measles a decidedly good start.

The Sanitary Authority tried to enforce the isolation of all children affected, but owing to the large number of cases and the fact of there being no place to remove patients that were not properly isolated, their efforts in that direction were sadly hampered.

SCARLET FEVER.—There were 215 cases of Scarlet Fever notified, of these 122 were removed to the Bucknall Hospital.

DEATHS.—There were nine deaths from Scarlet Fever in the Borough, and four amongst the patients removed to the Hospital. Death rate per 100 of notified cases, 6.

The fact of being able to remove Scarlet Fever patients that cannot be properly isolated is a great advantage; it not only prevents the direct spread of the contagion by removing the dangerous individual, but it also has the beneficial effect of impressing parents and guardians of children with the fact that the complaint is a serious one and to be carefully treated.

DIPHTHERIA.—There were 31 cases of Diphtheria notified, and five deaths.

In all cases of Infectious disease notified to me, I have caused notices to be sent to the Schools, to exclude the children of those households from School for a stated time.

I also, in each case, sent notice to the Free Library, to discontinue supplying books to the infected household, and to send any books previously supplied, to the Sanitary Office, to be disinfected.

DIARRHŒA.—There were 92 deaths from Diarrhœa and Dysentery and 4 from English Cholera ; in 1892, 35 ; in 1891, 39.

The extremely hot and dry weather caused a large mortality from Diarrhœa during the months of June, July, August and September.

CHOLERA.—During the year, notices were sent to the Sanitary Authority of two persons arriving in this district from Cholera Infected Ports. I visited them both and found them in good health.

For the prevention of the spread of Cholera the two great points to be aimed at are the removal of all nightsoil and refuse as speedily as possible, and a pure water supply.

The staff for the removal of nightsoil should be numerous and efficient.

DESTRUCTOR WANTED.—There have been several complaints of most offensive smells from the tip in Slippery Lane. In this tip, fish and other refuse are deposited, and in the hot weather the effluvia becomes a most dangerous and offensive nuisance. The time has certainly arrived for the Sanitary Authority to consider the necessity of procuring a Destructor ; the present means of dealing with our refuse is not at all satisfactory.

SEWAGE ARRANGEMENTS.—The Open Sewer at Udall's Fields still discharges the sewage from a great part of Northwood into the canal.

The nuisance from the improper impounding of the Sewage Water in the Works of the Shelton Steel and Iron Company has not been abated.

These two dangerous nuisances, and the direct connection of rain water spouts to the drains are most serious evils and should not be allowed to continue.

SMOKE INSPECTION.—The Inspector has made 251 observations during the year, and served 27 notices for the abatement of smoke nuisances. Twelve summonses have been taken out and convictions obtained against four firms, when, in each case, an order of abatement was made, and a fine and costs inflicted. Four summonses were dismissed and four withdrawn.

Two of these convictions were obtained under Sec. 91, Sub-Sec. 7 of the Public Health Act, 1875, which enacts that :—“ Any fire-place or furnace which does not as far as practicable consume the smoke arising from the combustible used therein, and which is used for working engines by steam,” ‘ shall be deemed to be a nuisance.’

Two expert witnesses (Mr. Fletcher, colliery proprietor, and Mr. Mellor, engineer) were called, and gave valuable evidence for the prosecution ; and Mr. Steward also stated what he had seen at certain factories and collieries at Oldham and Bolton, where steam boilers are fired by mechanical means.

These cases were heard at great length, and are, I believe, the first which have been brought into court (under Sub-Sec. 7) in any of the Pottery towns.

WORKSHOPS.—The number of workshops in the Borough is 436. These are regularly inspected, and the various matters dealt with, including over-crowding, ventilation, drainage, and sanitary accommodation, are totalled up and included in the list under the heading of nuisances found and abated.

MILKSHOPS.—Acting under my instructions Mr. Steward made a special inspection of all the Milkshops and Cowsheds in the Borough, from which milk had been supplied to persons suffering

from Typhoid Fever. Sixteen notices were served to remedy drainage, paving, and other sanitary defects, all of which have been complied with.

SHOP HOURS ACT.—To enforce the provisions of this Act the Inspector has made 597 visits. Numerous cautions have been given for minor offences under the Act—all of which were attended to. The number of shops registered in which young persons are employed is 225.

The Bakehouses in Hanley are in a very fair condition.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACT, 1890.—Under this Act notices have been served on the Landlords of the following houses in the Borough :—

- 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, Parker Street.
- 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, Durham Street.
- 67a, Golden Cup Yard.
- 5 and 7, Hammersley's Court.
- 97 and 99, Marsh Street.
- 20, Lomas Street.
- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, Dunkirk Square.
- 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19 and 21, Plant's Row.
- 23, Kent Street.
- 105, 107 and 109, Marsh Street.
- 6a, Marsh Street.
- House back of 21, Pall Mall.
- 17, Spur Street.
- 58, Hanover Street.
- 23, 25, 92 and 94, Chell Street.

Several of these houses have been pulled down, others are either empty or used as workshops. Others have, through repairs or structural alterations, been rendered fit for habitation and some are still to be dealt with.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.—Proceedings were taken before the Stipendiary Magistrates to obtain an order to close some houses in Marsh Street. The owner did not oppose and the order was granted.

LODGING HOUSES.—The lodging houses are clean, but registered to accommodate too many inmates. The necessary steps are being taken to lessen the number of lodgers, so as to allow 300 cubic feet to each person.

I have appended to this report two Tables, A and B, drawn up by the direction of the Local Government Board, which will repay careful perusal.

Table A gives the different deaths at groups of ages ; also all the deaths from the principal causes, distinguishing deaths of children under five years of age.

Table B. gives population, births, and new cases of infectious sickness coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, classified according to diseases, ages and localities.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.—There have been 15 prosecutions under this Act ; in each case there was a conviction.

The articles adulterated were Milk and Vinegar.

In some of the Milk cases cream had been abstracted, in others water had been added.

In each of the Vinegar cases pyroligneous acid distilled from wood was supplied instead of Vinegar prepared from malt and grain by acetous fermentation.

Appended is a Table of the work done by the Sanitary Officers during the year.

JOHN CLARE,

MEDICAL OFFICER,

COUNTY BOROUGH OF HANLEY.

TABLE A.

Showing DEATHS during the Year 1893, in the Hanley Sanitary District of Staffordshire, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

LOCALITY	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES										MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE												
	At all ages	Under 1 year	5 and under 5	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	Under 5	4	1	4	..	..	1	34	1	34	..	..	57	1	6	140	283
Hanley . . Total	532200	82	1912161	68	5 upwards	...	...	2	15	1	2	3	1	1	1	26	61	22	10	103	249		
Shelton . . Total	624215	120	1725	170	77	5 upwards	...	...	9	1	4	..	..	1	..	5	7	32	68	26	13	124	290
TOTALS . .	1156415	202	3637331145	...	...	5 upwards	...	2	24	1	6	3	1	2	..	6	8	58	129	48	23	227	539

TABLE B.

Showing Population, Births, and New Cases of Infectious Sickness, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1893, in the Urban Sanitary District of Hanley; classified according to Diseases, Ages and Locality.

SUMMARY OF WORK.

No. of Special Complaints	381
„ Nuisances Found	3336
„ „ „ Abated	2668
„ Notices Served	1178
„ Privy Conversions	125
„ References to Borough Surveyor and Water Office	352
„ Smoke Observations Taken	251

INFECTED HOUSES.

No. of Infectious Cases Visited	1441
„ „ „ Removed	150
„ Infected Houses Fumigated	1389
„ „ „ Articles Disinfected	4950

HOUSE INSPECTION.

No. of Houses Inspected	2537
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PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

No. of Samples Purchased for Analysis	119
„ „ „ Adulterated	16

MARGARINE ACT.

No. of Visits to Shops	310
„ Samples Analysed	0

SAMPLES TAKEN

Under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

21 of Milk	Adulterated	8
20 ,, Butter	,,	0
7 ,, Pepper	,,	0
10 ,, Whiskey	,,	0
13 ,, Vinegar	,,	7
2 ,, Bread	,,	0
16 ,, Coffee	,,	0
2 ,, Sweets	,,	0
6 ,, Oatmeal	,,	0
3 ,, Lard	,,	0
4 ,, Sweet Spirits of Nitre	,,	1
7 ,, Mustard	,,	0
5 ,, Flour..	,,	0
3 ,, Arrowroot..	,,	0

